

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
 SUBJECT Controls and Defense Measures
 along the Austro-Czech Border

DATE DISTR 29 December 1952

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
 ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS.
 (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
 INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
 REPORT NO.

25X1

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- On 7 September 1952 Czech troops held maneuvers between Fratting (48 54°N, 15 36°E) and Mitrowitzer-Hof (48 54°N, 15 39°E), 500 meters from the Austrian border. The maneuvers lasted from about 2000 to 2400 hours.
- There is a single layer barbed wire entanglement, 1 1/2 meters high and 250 meters long, about 600 meters west of the Unter-Markersdorf (48 43°N, 16 06°E)-Klein Tajax highway on Haidberg 315 (48 45°N, 16 05°E). The woods in this area have been cut down, to leave open territory along the border east and west of the barbed wire.
- From 21 August to 10 September 1952 the Czechs were erecting a barbed wire entanglement along the border from the Unter-Retzbach (48 46°N, 16 00°E)-Schattau (48 48°N, 16 01°E) railroad line westwards to a point about 100 meters from the edge of the Grafenberg Woods (48 48°N, 15 50°E). The distance between the entanglement and the border ranges from 250 meters up to 500 meters. The wire is about 1.7 meters high, 3 meters wide and fastened on wood posts.
- There is a barbed wire fence about 100 meters in length on the Mitter-Retzbach (48 47°N, 15 59°E)-Gnadlersdorf (48 48°N, 15 59°E) highway about 5 meters from the border on the Czech side. This fence has been set up diagonally across the road.
- From the edge of the Grafenberg Forest to a point 300-400 meters northwest of this site, the Czechs have cleared a strip of woods 15 meters wide. The cleared strip lies about 30 meters from the border.
- A barbed wire entanglement, 2 meters high and 3-4 meters wide, has been put up by Czech soldiers along the left bank of the Lainsitz River on Czech territory, about 50-100 meters from the Austrian border. This entanglement extends from the Vienna-Prague railroad bridge at Gmuend II (sic) to the Gmuend-Boehmzeile (48 47°N, 14 59°E) customs point. Czech soldiers have been surveying (Trassierungsarbeiten) the area from the Gmuend-Boehmzeile customs point in the direction of Kote 492, northwest of Gmuend (48 46°N, 14 59°E). The barbed wire entanglement probably extends in this direction.

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7. Czech workmen, under the supervision of Czech military personnel, have been carrying out extensive fortification work on the left bank of the March River. At the westward bend in the March River, next to the border town of Marchegg (48 17'N, 16 55'E), the river bank has been straightened out.
8. A watchtower has been put up on the left bank of the March River about 2 meters north of Marchegg, giving a good view over the woods. Barbed wire entanglements, some of them 1.5 meters high, can be seen on Czech territory. Most of the wooded areas on the Czech side have been cut down to various heights, some to approximately 50 meters. Military posts can also be seen. Bunkers which had been built at an earlier date have recently been covered with earth and sod, evidently to camouflage them from overhead view. Such bunkers in the area north of Marchegg are in many cases only 100 or 200 meters apart.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment: German word for "benchmark" or "Hill No. ____".

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